

Message Text

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ACTION STR-04

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ARA-06 EUR-12 EA-07 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00
STRE-00 FEA-01 AGRE-00 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00
EB-08 FRB-03 H-01 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00
NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15 ITC-01 TRSE-00
USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01 /132 W
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P R 161830Z FEB 77
FM USDEL MTN GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2253
INFO ALL OECD CAPS 153
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY MEXICO CITY
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY SEOUL
WMEMBASSY TEL AVIV 1143
AMCONSUL HONG KONG

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ACTION STR

H PASS CODEL

EO 11652: NA
TAGS: ETRD, MTN, GATT
SUBJ: MTN GROUP SAFEGUARDS MEETING, 14-15 FEB 1977

REF: 76 MTN GENEVA 8624, MTN GENEVA 668 (NOTAL, TPSC 77-10)

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1. SUMMARY: BRIEF BUT USEFUL MEETING OF GROUP SAFEGUARDS
REACHED AGREEMENT ON FUTURE WORK PROGRAM AS ENVISAGED BY
US TO ENCOURAGE CONCRETE NEGOTIATING PROPOSALS FROM OTHER
DELS. MEETING YIELDED SOME FURTHER SPECIFIC DC REACTIONS TO
US SAFEGUARDS PROPOSAL AND ELABORATION OF SOME OTHER DC
POSITIONS. IN RESPONSE TO MOUNTING LDC DISSATISFACTION OVZR
LACK OF DC REACTION TO LDC PROPOSALS ON TABLE SINCE

1973, DCS FOR FIRST TIME MADE EXTENSIVE COMMENTS;
LDCS PREDICTABLY UNHAPPY TO HEAR THEIR EXTREME DEMANDS
NOT ACCEPTABLE BUT ENCOURAGED THAT DCS GETTING READY TO
"DO BUSINESS". END SUMMARY.

2. MTN GROUP SAFEGUARDS MET FEB 14-15 TO CONTINUE
DISCUSSION OF US PROPOSAL, TO HEAR DEVELOPED
COUNTRY REACTIONS TO PROPOSALS TABLED BY BRAZIL, NIGERIA,
AND PAKISTAN IN 1973 AND MEXICO IN 1976, AND TO MAP OUT
A FUTURE WORK PROGRAM FOR THE GROQP. GATT SECRETARIAT
OFFICIALLY INSTALLED AS CHAIRMAN TO SUCCEED COLLIANDER
OF SWEDEN, WITH DEPUTY DG PATTERSON INFORMING GROUP THAT
KAUTZOR-SCHROEDER WAS SECRETARIAT DESIGNEE.

3. GROUP INITIALLY FOCUSSED ON LDC PROPOSALS FOR
ELEMENTS OF A MULTILATERAL SWFEGUARDS SYSTEM TO
ENSURE SPECIAL AND DIFFERENTIAL TREATMENT FOR LDCS.
ASSERTION BY MEXICO (DELGADO) THAT LDCS HAVE UNIFORM
VIEWPOINT ON SAFEGUARDS WORK WAS GENERALLY SUPPORTED
BY OTHER LDC DELS. ECUADOR FOR ANDEAN GROUP DESCRIBED
OBJECTIVES SIMILAR TO LDC PROPOSALS ALREADY TABLED. INDIA
(HEMRAJANI) WENT SO FAR AS TO SAY THAT EVOLUTION OF A
SAFEGUARDS AGREEMENT WITHOUT S&D PROVISIONS WOULD NOT
SATISFY LDCS; A SAFEGUARDS AGREEMENT, HE ADDED, WOULD
HINGE UPON DEVELOPED COUNTRIZS "VACATING AREAS IN WHICH
THEY ARE NOT COMPETITIVE", USING ADJUSTMENT ASSISTANCE
MEASURES. LDCS SHOULD ALSO HAVE THE
EXPLICIT RIGHT TO INVOKE SAFEGUARDS FOR GENERAL DEVELOP-
MENT PURPOSES, NOT JUST AGAINST INJURIOUS COMPETITION.
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EGYPT, ARGENTINA, GUATEMALA FOR CACM, BRAZIL, JAMAICA, NIGERIA,
SUPPORTED OTHER LDCS.

4. CANADA (WEEKES), EC (ABBOTT), JAPAN (UKAWA), AND
US (HARTZELL) ALL SAID
BLANKET EXEMPTION OF LDCS FROM SAFEGUARDS, PRIOR
MULTILATERAL AUTHORIZATION OF SAFEGUARDS, AND MANDATORY
COMPENSATION AND MANDATORY DOMESTIC ADJUSTMENT ASSISTANCE ARE
UNACCEPTABLE. SOME DELS GAVE SUPPORT HOWEVER TO GENERAL CONCEPTS
OF PRIOR NOTIFICATION/CONSULTATION, MULTILATERAL
SURVZILLANCE, AND TIGHT CONDISTIONS (TIME LIMITS,
DEGRESSIVITY, ETC.) ON SAFEGUARD MEASURES -- ALL FEATURED
PROMINENTLY IN LDC PROPOSALS. JAPAN STRESSED EARLIER U.S.
THEME THAT LDCS HAD MUCH TO GAIN FROM IMPROVEMENT OF
SAFEGUARD SYSTEM EVEN WITHOUT SPECIAL AND DIFFERENTIAL
TREATMENT. EC DREW BULK OF LDC FLAK BY PUSHING ITS CASE
FOR SELECTIVE (DISCRIMINATORY) SAFEGUARDS APPLICATION AS
WAY IN WHICH MANY LDCS COULD BZ SPARED FROM DC SAFEGUARD
MEASURES WHIKH, WITH SELECTIVITY, WOULD NEED TO BE

TARGETED ONLY AT MOST "DYNAMIC" IMPORT SOURCES (I.E., ONLY SOME BUT NOT ALL LDCS). LDCS THOUGHT THIS APPROACH INEQUITABLE AT BEST.

5. GENERAL LDC REACTION WAS PRO FORMA APPRECIATION FOR COMMENTS AT LONG LAST, PREDICTABLE DISAPPOINTMENT AT DC UNWILLINGNESS TO ENTERTAIN EXTREME DEMANDS, BUT ENCOURAGEMENT THAT DCS FINALLY SEEMED TO BE GETTING READY TO "DO BUSINESS".

6. GROUP HEARD NEW STATEMENTS (TO BE POUCHED) FROM NORDICS, SWITZERLAND, AND SOUTH AFRICA COMMENTING AND TAKING POSITIONS ON US PROPOSAL. US MADE LENGTHY STATEMENT PRIMARILY ADDRESSING EARLIER COMMENTS OF OTHER DELS AND ORGANIZED IN GROUPINGS OF ISSUES LATER AGREED FOR GROUP WORK PROGRAM. (MAIN PURPOSE WAS TO PRODUCE OTHERS TO RECOGNIZE WHERE CONCRETE PROPOSALS AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WRITTEN CONTRIBUTIONS WOULD HELP MOVE NEGOTIATIONS ALONG.) SOME REACTIONS OF INTEREST INCLUDED; EC REDEDICATION TO LEADERSHIP ROLE IN SEEKING NEGOTIATION OF INJURY FACTOR CHECKLIST AND OF SOME OPERABLE APPROACH TO SELECTIVE SAFEGUARDS (SUBJECT TO SURVEILLANCE); CANADIAN COMMITMENT TO ADDRESS SEASONAL/CYCLICAL ISSUES AND DISPUTE MANAGEMENT MORE SPECIFICALLY; AND JAPANESE STATEMENT THAT IT NOT OPPOSED TO GUIDELINES ON DOMESTIC PROCEDURES. AUSTRALIA (RYAN) CONTINUED ITS OWN WAY WITH YET ANOTHER REFORMULATION OF WHY SAFEGUARDS EXERCISE UNBALANCED AGAINST IT AS LONG AS NECESSARY PROGRESS LACKING IN OTHER MTN GROUPS.

L7. REFLECTING EXTENSIVE US LOBBYING PRIOR TO MEETING, GROUP AGREED THAT NEAR TERM WORK COULD BE ORGANIZED UNDER "ISSUE CLUSTERS", ENUMERATED IN CHAIRMAN'S SUMMING-UP AS (A) CRITERIA, CONDITIONS, RETALIATION, COMPENSATION, AND ADJUSTMENT ASSISTANCE; (B) TYPES OF MEASURES AND MODALITIES OF APPLICATION (FY: MFN VS SELECTIVITY); (C) DOMESTIC PROCEDURES; (D) SHORT-TERM SEASONAL AND CYCLICAL PROBLEMS; (E) NOTIFICATION, CONSULTATION, SURVEILLANCE AND DISPUTE SETTLEMENT; AND (F) OTHER SUBJECTS IF REQUESTED BY DELS. AT NEXT MEETING, SET FOR WEEK OF MAY 2, DELS WILL ADDRESS ISSUE CLUSTERS IN ORDER LISTED, CONCENTRATING ON FIRST THREE GROUPINGS, AND WILL DECIDE WHETHER TO HAVE SECOND MEETING BEFORE SUMMER BREAK TO HANDLE REMAINDER. HEAVY STRESS PUT ON FURTHER WRITTEN CONTRIBUTIONS AND PROPOSALS NEEDED FROM DELS TO GIVE BASIS FOR USEFUL WORK.

8. FYI: THIS OUTCOME CLOSELY IN LINE WITH U.S.
OBJECTIVES IN TPSC 77-10, EXCEPT FOR ADJUSTMENT ASSISTANCE
ITEM IN FIRST TOPIC, SPECIFIED BECAUSE OF LDC PRESSURE.
US WILL SEEK SECOND MEETING IN MID-JUNE, WITH
POSSIBILITY AT THAT TIME OF HAVING A DRAFT NEGOTIATING
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DOCUMENT PRODUCED ON BASIS OF WRITTEN DELEGATION POSITIONS
THEN ON THE TABLE. IN MEANTIME, US MAY MAKE FURTHER
WRITTEN CONTRIBUTIONS ON SOME OF ABOVE POINTS. END
FYI. WALKER

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